

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (original) Isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence SEQ.ID.NO. 8 or one of its fragments.

Claim 2 (currently amended) An isolated ~~Isolated~~ polynucleotide according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO.8.

Claim 3 (currently amended) An isolated ~~Isolated~~ polynucleotide according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO.9.

Claim 4 (currently amended) A polynucleotide ~~Polynucleotide~~ selected from the group consisting of sequence SEQ.ID.NO.4, SEQ.ID.NO.5, SEQ.ID.NO.11 or and SEQ.ID.NO.12.

Claim 5 (currently amended) A polynucleotide ~~Polynucleotide~~ of sequence SEQ.ID.NO.13.

Claim 6 (currently amended) An ~~Isolated~~ isolated polypeptide comprising the sequence SEQ.ID.NO.14 or one of its fragments.

Claim 7 (currently amended) An ~~Isolated~~ isolated polypeptide according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is a polypeptide of sequence SEQ. ID.14.

Claim 8 (currently amended) ~~An Expression~~expression vector containing a polynucleotide of sequence SEQ.ID.NO.13.

Claim 9 (currently amended) ~~A Host~~host cell transformed or transfected by an expression vector according to claim 8.

Claim 10. (currently amended) ~~A Process~~process for preparing an isolated polypeptide comprising the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.9 or SEQ.ID.NO.13 or one of the fragments of the latter or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.9 or one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological an./or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, said preparation process comprising the following ~~stages~~steps:

(a) culture, under suitable conditions ~~in order~~ to obtain the expression of said polypeptide of a host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector comprising an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.9 or SEQ.ID.NO.13, the sequence complementary to the polnucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.9 or SEQ.ID.NO.13 or also one of the fragments of the latter, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity charteristic of a protein human GHRN and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

(b) isolation of the polypeptide from the host cell cultures.

Claim 11 (currently amended) ~~An Antibody~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment of the latter, which specifically binds the protein sequence SEQ.ID.NO.14 but not the protein of sequence SEQ.ID.NO.10.

Claim 12 (currently amended) As medicament, a polynucleotide according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

13. (currently amended) As medication, a polypeptide according to claim 6 ~~or~~ 7.

14. (currently amended) Pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active ingredient, a polynucleotide according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1.

15 (currently amended) Pharmaceutical composition comprising , as active ingredient, a polypeptide according to claim 6 or 7.

16. (currently amended) Use of a polynucleotide according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 for preparing a medicament intended to treat a proliferative disease.

17 (currently amended) Use of a polypeptide according to claim 6 ~~or~~ 7 for preparing a medicament intended to treat a proliferative disease.

18 (currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ for the identification of compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation, ~~which comprises the following successive stages comprising:~~

(a) bring each candidate compound into contact with an isolated polypeptide comprising:

-either a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.9

or by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.9,

-or a fragment of the protein encoded by the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.13 or

by a sequence complementary to the polynucleotide sequence SEQ.ID.NO.13,

under condition and for a time sufficient to allow the candidate agent to bind to the polypeptide, said isolated polypeptide having at least one immunological and/or biological activity characteristic of a protein binding human GHRH and being associated with the modulation of cell proliferation, and

(b) detection of the binding of each candidate compound to said polypeptide and identification, from the candidate compounds, of the compounds capable of binding human GHRH and modulating cell proliferation.

19 (new) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

20(new) A pharmaceutical composition for treating a proliferative disease comprising an amount of a polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease and an inert carrier.

21.(new) A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal an amount of polynucleotide of claim 1 sufficient to treat said disease.

22 (new) A method of treating a proliferative disease in a warm-blooded animal comprising administering to a warm-blooded animal an amount of polypeptide of claim 6 sufficient to treat said disease.